PHIL 3130/01
Feminist Philosophy
Semester: Spring 2014
Location: University College, Room 127
Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30pm—1:45pm

Instructor: Dr. Amy Donahue
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Phone: 770.423.6624
Office: Social Sciences Building, Rm. 4092
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:15am — 12:15pm, 2:45pm — 3:15pm, or by appointment. I’m very willing to meet, in person or electronically, when my schedule allows.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1102 or equivalent required.

Catalogue Course Description: The course is a study of the main currents of feminist philosophy, including criticisms of traditional philosophical paradigms and new frameworks for approaching the diversity of human experience.

Required Texts:
Select online articles and materials.

Instructional Methods: The course will emphasize the use of “active” rather than “passive” learning methods. As much as is logistically and pedagogically possible, group discussions will take priority over lectures. The course aims, in part, to introduce students to the notion of feminist philosophy, feminist critical thought, and feminist philosophical reading as active, interpersonal practices.

Learning Outcomes: For a grade of “B” or better, students must fulfill the following learning outcomes for this course:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of assigned feminist philosophical texts, concepts, arguments, and counterarguments through weekly online quizzes, two online short answer exams, active classroom participation, a midterm paper, a presentation, and a final paper.
- Write one five to seven page midterm paper explaining specific theories of care ethics or standpoint epistemology, describing how and why they might be justified, and explaining the theoretical challenges they face.
• Prepare and deliver a fifteen minute presentation that explains and critically assesses select aspects of the assigned material on feminist debates about categorization, gender, heterogeneity, violence, and empowerment.
• Write an eight to ten page final paper that accurately represents and critically assesses select claims, arguments, and concepts deployed within our assigned material on feminist debates about categorization, gender, heterogeneity, violence, and empowerment.

Course Assessments / Assignments:

Grading:
Weekly Online Quizzes — 14%
Two short answer exams — 16% (8% each)
Midterm Paper — 20%
Oral Presentation — 10%
Final Paper — 25%
Class participation — 15%

Grading Scale:
A — 90-100
B — 80-89
C — 70-79
D — 60-69
F — <60
I — Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when a student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond their control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

Weekly Online Quizzes: One short answer and/or multiple choice online quiz will be held at the end of each week, from Weeks 2 — 15, on D2L. The quizzes will be posted by no later than 11:59pm on Friday, and your responses will be due by 11pm the night before the following week’s first class (typically Sunday). The quizzes will be graded Pass/Fail, and each will be worth 1 per cent of your final grade. These quizzes are intended to motivate reading and to ensure basic, rudimentary knowledge. Missed online quizzes typically cannot be made up.

The weekly online quizzes will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

Pass (1 point) — As a whole, the responses demonstrate direct familiarity with the texts, and rudimentary understanding of fundamental textual concepts.
Fail (0 points) — Either the quiz is not completed by 11pm the night before the week’s first class, or the responses do not demonstrate direct familiarity with the texts or rudimentary understanding of fundamental textual concepts.

**Short Answer Exams:** Approximately two weeks before your midterm and final papers are due, students will complete online short answer exams. In these online open-book exams, students will be asked to explain, in their own words, key concepts and conceptual relationships from assigned textual material, and to support their responses with appropriate textual evidence. Student responses should demonstrate accurate, detailed, and in-depth understanding of textual material and should use proper citations. These exams are meant to prepare students to write midterm and final papers that are properly grounded in textual content. Students will be welcome to include their revised responses in their papers.

**Papers:** Your midterm and final papers should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/)). Please review KSU’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism before submission. Time permitting, I will be happy to review paper drafts before assignments are due and to work with students to improve their academic writing. Graded papers are normally returned no more than two weeks after their due date. A grading rubric for your papers in this class will be available on D2L. Please review descriptions of these assignments in the “Learning Outcomes” section above.

**Oral Presentations:** The majority of the last three class sessions will be reserved for student oral presentations. Each presentation should consist of roughly 10 minutes of prepared remarks. Students are encouraged to present on topics that they address in their final 8-10 page papers. The presentations are intended to help students to articulate and refine theses that they will explain and defend in their final papers.

**Class participation:** Good (i.e., “B”-level) participation in class requires consistent and on-time attendance, in-class attentiveness, and appropriate engagement with others—e.g., asking appropriate questions, responding appropriately to instructor and student questions, working constructively in group exercises, treating fellow class participants with respect and courtesy, etc.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide a reasonable, documentable explanation for class absences. After three unexcused absences, students lose a full letter from their class participation grade with each additional unexcused absence.

**Electronic Devices Policy:**
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. Students are welcome to use laptops, smart phones, etc. in class to take notes and to look up material relevant to class discussions. However, unrelated texting, chatting, web-surfing, etc. during class will negatively affect students’ class participation grades.

**Academic Honesty:**
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and
degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. **When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.** No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation **AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link:** [https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures)

**ADA Compliance:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.
Tentative Course Schedule  
(reading assignments and activities are subject to revision)

Week 1: Introduction. What does ‘Feminist Philosophy’ mean? Are there specifically ‘feminine’ or ‘feminist’ ways of being, reasoning, and valuing?
1/8 — Class introductions, welcome, and discussion of syllabus, interest in class, and the meaning, if any, of the concepts, ‘feminine’ and ‘feminist’.

Week 2: Do women know and engage the world differently from men?
1/13 — Reading due: Carol Gilligan (uploaded to D2L).
1/15 — Re-reading due: Gilligan. Reading due: Introduction to feminist care ethics (uploaded to D2L)

Weeks 3-4: Feminist Care Ethics and their Critics (cont.)
1/20 — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. No class

Weeks 5-6: Feminist Standpoint Epistemologies and their Critics

Week 7: Feminist Standpoint Epistemologies (cont.) and First Exam
2/19 — FIRST EXAM

Weeks 8-9: Intersectionality
3/3 — LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY.

Week 10-11: Problems Representing the Subject of ‘Feminism’
3/19 — MIDTERM PAPER DUE

Weeks 11-12: Butler on the Construction and Deconstruction of Representative Genders

Week 13: Spring Break
3/31 — No class
4/2 — No class

Weeks 14-16: Gender as an Object and Tactic of Resistance (Butler and Yeğenoğlu)
4/16 — SECOND EXAM

Weeks 16-17: Student oral presentations
4/23 — First day of oral presentations
4/28 — Second day of oral presentations
4/30 — Last day of class. Last day of oral presentations

FINAL PAPER: DUE ELECTRONICALLY THURSDAY, MAY 8 BY 12PM.